

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 ABU DH 01912 091257Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----069482 091345Z /25

P R 091152Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8097
INFO USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

S E C R E T ABU DHABI 1912

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PEPR, TC, YS
SUBJECT: VISIT OF PDRY MINISTER OF PLANNING ABD AL WALI

1. JULY 8 UAE PAPERS ANNOUNCED THAT UAE PRESIDENT SHAIKH ZAYID HAD MET PREVIOUS DAY WITH PDRY MINISTRY OF PLANNING ABD AL AZIZ ABD AL WALI WHO HAD CONVEYED A MESSAGE FROM CHAIRMAN OF PDRY'S PRESIDENTIAL COUNCIL ALI NASIR MUHAMMAD ON SITUATION IN SOUTH YEMEN. (ZAYID HAD EARLIER IN WEEK RECEIVED YAR DEVELOPMENT MINISTER BASENDWA WHO HAD CONVEYED MESSAGE FROM ACTING YAR CHIEF OF STATE AL-ARSHI ON YEMEN SITUATION.) WHEN I MET SAUDI AMBASSADOR IRUMAIH LATER THAT DAY, HE WAS IN HIGH DUDGEON THAT SHAIKH ZAYID SHOULD HAVE MET PDRY REPRESENTATIVE STATING ZAYID HAD ACTED UNWISELY. SAUDI AMBASSADOR WAS PARTICULARLY ASTONISHED THAT ZAYID SHOULD MAKE SUCH A GESTURE AFTER UAE FOREIGN MINISTER SUWAIDI HAD JUST BEEN TO CAIRO, WHERE HE

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HAD SUPPORTED SAUDI POSITION AND THAT OF OTHER ATTENDEES TO FREEZE RELATIONS WITH PDRY, AND ZAYID'S UNPUBLICIZED MEETING ON JULY 6 WITH SAUDI PRINCE TURKI BIN FAISAL WHO HAD ALSO BRIEFED ZAYID ON PDRY GOVERNMENT'S ATTITUDES. SAUDI AMBASSADOR SAID SAG TOOK THIS MATTER VERY SERIOUSLY.

2. ON JULY 9 WHEN I MET WITH UAE FOREIGN MINISTER SUWAIDI,

I RAISED ABD AL WALI'S VISIT. SAUDI AMBASSADOR HAD JUST PRECEDED ME, PRESUMABLY TO EXPRESS SAG UNHAPPINESS. SAUWADI RESPONDED THAT ABD AL WALI HAD VISITED KUWAIT AND BAGHDAD AND HAD ASKED TO STOP IN ABU DHABI. WHILE UAEG HAD TRIED TO POSTPONE VISIT, POINTING OUT IT WAS THURSDAY/FRIDAY WEEKEND, ABD AL WALI HAD COME ANYWAY AND ZAYID HAD FELT HE COULD NOT REFUSE TO SEE HIM. ABD AL WALI'S MESSAGE WAS THAT LATE PDY PRESIDENT SALIM RUBAI ALI HAD BEEN PERSON TO MSTERMIND ASSASSINATION OF YAR PRESIDENT GHASHMI AND THAT PDY GOVERNMENT HAD INCONTROVERTIBLE PROOF OF THIS. WHEN PDY CENTRAL COMMITTEE HAD TRIED TO INTEROGATE RUBAI ALI AND ASKED THAT HE SUBMIT HIS RESIGNATION, HE HAD REFUSED, CHOOSING INSTEAD TO HAVE MILITARY UNITS ATTACK THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE. AS A CONSEQUENCE, MILITARY ACTION HAD BEEN TAKEN AGAINST RUBAI ALI WHO HAD BEEN CAPTURED AND SUMMARILY EXECUTED AFTER TRIAL.

3. SUWADI INDICATED TO ME THAT UAE DID NOT ACCEPT THIS EXPLANATION. ABD AL WALI HAD BEEN TOLD BY SHAIKH ZAYID THAT IT WOULD BE VERY DIFFICULT TO CONVINCE ANYONE IN UAE THAT RUBAI ALI COULD HAVE DONE ALL THESE THINGS HIMSELF. HE MADE NO MENTION OF SAUDI DISPLEASURE AT UAE FOR HAVING RECEIVED ABD AL WALI BUT HE DID SAY THAT SAUDI ARABIA, OMAN AND YAR ARE EXTREMELY CONCERNED AND SEE THIS AS EXTENSION OF SOVIET POWER INTO THE PENINSULA AND AS FIRST STEP
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BY SOVIET POWER INTO THE PENINSULA AND AS FIRST STEP BY SOVIETS TO ESTABLISHMENT OF NAVAL BASE FACILITIES AT ADEN. HE ASKED WHETHER WE SHARED THIS VIEW. I SAID THAT WE HAD NO CONFIRMATION THAT SOVIETS, CUBANS OR EAST GERMANS ACTUALLY HAD MASTERMINDED RUBAI ALI OVERTHROW. HOWEVER, THEIR PRESENCE CERTAINLY HAD FACILITATED NF SECRETARY GENERAL ISMAIL'S SUCCESSFUL MOVE AGAINST RUBAI ALI AND PRESUMABLY MADE IT EASIER FOR SOVIETS TO ASK FOR NAVAL FACILITIES AS QUID PRO QUO.

4. SUWADI SAID UAE HAD SUPPORTED DECISIONS AT ARAB LEAGUE CAIRO MEETING TO FREEZE POLITICAL RELATIONS AND STOP ECONOMIC AID TO PDY. IN FACT ALL UAE ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE EXCEPT FOR PAYING SALARIES OF TEACHERS HAD ENDED PRIOR TO RECENT EVENTS IN TWO YEMENS. TEACHERS PAID BY UAE WERE NOW ON SUMMER VACATION AND HE EXPECTED DECISION WOULD BE MADE SOON NOT TO FUND THEIR PRESENCE FOR NEXT SCHOOL YEAR BEGINNING IN SEPTEMBER.

5. I USED OCCASION ALSO TO COVER WITH SUWADI POINTS ON AFGHANISTAN AND ARABIAN SECURITY CONTAINED STATE 153167. SUWADI EXPRESSED APPRECIATION BUT OFFERED NO SUBSTANTIVE

COMMENT, OTHER THAN TO SAY THAT THESE REGIONAL DEVELOP-
MENTS, PARTICULARLY EVENTS IN PDRY, SHOULD MAKE UAE RULERS
ALL THE MORE AWARE OF NEED TO COOPERATE AND RESOLVE INTER-
NAL DISPUTES.
DICKMAN

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